How did early humans survive here?

Record the main idea of each point, and give an extra piece of important information.

1. A vital resource they needed was food, so they made stone tools to help them kill animals and eat them.
   * Early humans made stone tools to help fight and protect their kind. They found hardened volcanic rock which they hit with large hammer stones to make hand axes. They used these to kill animals and eat them. This shows that they were very good at using the materials around them and using them for their own advantage.
2. By eating plant foods
   * They made or found stones that had pits in them so they could crush nuts and other food. They might have done this so people with dental problems or other issues could eat hard foods easier.
3. By eating meat
   * Early humans used the sharp tools they made to butcher animals and eat the nutritious marrow. This shows that early humans were very advanced at hunting and did not waste the precious food.
4. By finding shade
   * It was scorching hot in Kenya so early humans hid under trees, in the shade, so they stayed cool. This was very important because they could get heat stroke or get very dehydrated. This shows that early humans understood the problems they had to face and dealt with them accordingly.
5. By avoiding predators
   * A number of stone tools and bones of numerous animals were found at this site. Animals around them didn’t bother coming to the leftovers because the early humans were so good at eating the bone marrow that the carnivores had no reason to visit.
6. By being social
   * An elephant skeleton was found with more than 2300 tools found around it. Killing the elephant probably required most of the members to help hunt the animals and kill it. This shows that communication is very important, and that even early humans used it to help them survive.

What animals and plants did early humans see?

Record the information, and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Giant Monkeys

2. Lots of grass

3. Hyenas with powerful jaws

4. Hippopotamuses that left big footprints everywhere

5. Wild pigs that were the size of hippopotamuses

6. Zebras that ate a lot of the grass

Question 1: What do you notice about the size of the animals compared to the humans?

The animals the early humans encountered were much larger than they were.

All the animals listed above were larger and often more powerful than the humans. Therefore, I infer that they must of used teamwork and cooperation to kill and eat the animals because it would have taken a long time for one person to do all this.

Question 2: Which survival strategies (from the first section) would have helped early humans if they came across one of these animals? Explain in detail.

Attacking in a large group. The more people they had to attack and to fight, the easier it was to take down the animal. It was also easier to pick off the meat and eat all of it before it rots or spoils.

**Adventures in the Rift Valley**

In what kind of environments did early humans live?

Record the information, and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. A time when streams flowed through the area

2. Sometimes near a fresh water lake

3. Times when a large river ran through the area

4. Sometimes near wetlands followed by drought

5. A time of dry grassland

6. Times when there were volcanic eruptions

Question 1: Why might there be so many spear points in an old stream channel?

Because the stream might have flowed through were they stayed and swept all their tools and spear points away. Another thought might be that the spears stuck in animals and that could have been swept away or animals might have picked it up and thrown it into the stream.

Question 2: Did the early humans live in a very stable environment, or a constantly changing environment? How do you know? How would this hurt or help the early human’s chances at survival? Be specific and detailed.

They lived in a changing environment but not a huge changing one. They mostly had water, streams and dry grasslands. Every so often a volcano would explode. Even though it did change a bit, it did not change rapidly, it took a while for the environment to change. This would hurt their chances of survival because they would have to adapt to the new change and live on.

Where did early humans live and die?

Record the information, and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. By streams and channels where water flowed

2. By the lakeside

3. In the grassland

4. On the mountain

5. Along rocky ridges leading to the mountain

Question 1: Where did researchers finally find the human bones? Why did the early humans live here?

Along the rocky ridges that were leading to the mountain. They lived here because all their needs were there. In the lowlands they could get food and water and in the mountain they could get stone for making tools. Everything they needed was in these places.

Question 2: Fossil evidence shows that the early humans went to each of the other locations as well. What do you think was the purpose of visiting each of the other areas? Be specific and detailed.

There might have been a need for more equipment and food. There might have not been enough

in that one location, so they moved and searched at other places. For example, if they picked all the berries at one of the lowlands, they would hunt at a different one until they grew back at the one they were picking at before. Then they would go back and it would be like a cycle.

How did later hunters in this region differ from previous ones?

Record the information, and complete the following task.

1. They no longer made hand axes

2. They used diverse kinds of rocks found in distant places

3. They collected materials that could be used as pigments

4. They made smaller tools

5. They made stone points attached to spears and arrows

Each of these points demonstrates that the early humans were improving their skills, developing technology, and gaining a better understanding of the ways they could use the resources around them. Select two of these points. Write a well-written paragraph for each explaining why this change was a benefit to the early humans.

1.

Hunters in this area later started fitting sharp stone points onto spears and arrows. There were many advantages to this. One of them was that the weapons now had a harder and more painful blow to them. It was easier and faster to kill the animal. An example for this would be that without the sharp points, a wooly mammoth could stand about 20 hits (I don’t actually now, I'm just guesstimating) but with the sharp rocks, they mammoth could take less hits, around maybe 10-15 until it dies or bleeds out. Another advantage was that they could actually attack from a distance with the sharp bows and arrows.

This means 4 things:

1. It was safer for the early humans to attack the predators

2. They could attack more animals at a time

3. They could attack animals that were at hard to reach places

4. They could sneak attack more easily by hiding beneath or behind an object.

Another advantage was that they could cut, crush and have access to a wider variety of foods including meat of those of large animals that they could not kill before.

2.

Having smaller tools was a good thing. Sometimes people talk about how big weapons are the best, but in this case it wasn't. Having smaller tools meant that the tools were lighter. Instead of wasting energy on carrying the weapon and having no energy to kill the animal, the carried small, sharp weapons with a menacing slash if used correctly. They could also carry more weapons, tools and food because they made them smaller.

I also believe that they were easier to make because less material and time had to go into making them.